

A NEW SPECIES OF PSEUDOMETHOCA (MUTILLIDAE) FROM THE WEST INDIES.

By R. M. SCHUSTER, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

Only a very few species of Mutillidae have been described from the Antilles, and all of these, as far as known, are indigenous to one island. Among these have been three species of *Pseudomethoca*. A fourth species is described below, and it has been considered expedient to give a short key to the West Indian species, in order to facilitate their recognition.

KEY TO SPECIES OF PSEUDOMETHOCA.

1. Male; entirely black, except for reddish-tinged base of second tergite. (St. Vincent). *Pseudomethoca uncinata* Ashm.
Females 2
2. Integument of head and thorax entirely blackish 3
Head ferruginous or testaceous 4
3. Head very densely, conspicuously silvery pubescent; second tergite with two large spots of cinereous pubescence; tergites 4-6 silvery pubescent; sternites silvery pubescent; otherwise largely black pubescent; the legs and antennae testaceous; no red on second tergite. (St. Croix).

Pseudomethoca olgae sp. n.

Sparsely white pubescent, mixed with black hairs; second tergite of abdomen with broad apical band of red; legs nearly black, the tarsi testaceous. (St. Vincent).

Pseudomethoca uncinata Ashm.

4. Head ochraceous pubescent; second tergite ferruginous, the basal lateral angles almost black, lacking spots; thorax dark throughout; first abdominal tergite without median spot of silvery pubescence. (Cuba) *Pseudomethoca salti* Mickel
Head yellow or testaceous, with fine silky silvery pubescence; thorax anteriorly and laterally partly ferruginous; second tergite with three ferruginous spots; petiole with a median apical silvery spot. (Haiti).

Pseudomethoca flaviceps (Andre)

Pseudomethoca olgae sp. n.

Female: Length 5.5-6 mm. Blackish, the apical abdominal segments lighter; the legs and antennae testaceous; the head and two large spots on the second abdominal tergite silvery pubescent; tergites 4-6, the sternites and posterior propodeal face similarly, but sparsely so; the thoracic notum and second tergite (except spots) and tergite three largely black pubescent.

Head very large, swollen, transversely rectangular seen

above, dark brown to blackish, clothed with a very dense vestiture of appressed and decumbent silvery hairs, hiding the sculpture dorsally; width 1.6 mm. (wider than maximum length of alitrunk); genae less densely pubescent, sparsely, finely punctate, a lighter brown in color, carinate weakly behind, but not spinose or dentate produced. Mandibles acuminate dentate.

Thorax obpyriform, blackish, except for the testaceous legs, clothed with sparse decumbent blackish pubescence above, except for the posterior propodeal face, which is silvery pubescent. Rather coarsely, very closely, contiguously to confluent punctured, the punctures quite deep; maximum width 1.14 mm. (less than 0.8 the width of the head.) Somewhat in front of the metathoracic spiracles the dorsolateral angles of the thorax are produced as a strong, but small, acute tooth on either side; the propodeum has three teeth on its lateral edges, the upper and lower very weak, the median prominent. Posterior propodeal face polished and shining, except for small setigerous sparse punctures. Legs testaceous, silvery pubescent. Posterior tibiae with two rows of four spines each; calcaria white.

Petiole silvery-pubescent; except for the apex medially, which is black pubescent. Second tergite black pubescent, and entirely of a black integumentary color, but the disk with two large triangular spots of dense silvery hairs, the points of the triangle facing each other medially, and separated from each other by an area of black pubescence. Apical tergites progressively less darkly pigmented, the third black pubescent, the apical tergites silvery pubescent, with narrow median areas with black hairs. The sternites entirely silvery pubescent; second sternite with punctures moderate, in transverse rows.

Holotype: United States Experiment Station, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, April 19, 1922 (C. E. Wilson), in collection of Cornell University, Type No. 2195.

This beautifully marked species is very different in general facies from any other West Indian species.

The pair of very prominent, silvery pubescent spots of the second tergite and the conspicuously and densely swollen silvery pubescent head easily separate this species from any other known species of *Pseudomethoca*. It is named in honor of my wife, Olga M. Schuster.

REFERENCES

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